

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 109160

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109160

EXDIS, TOSEC 970 ZFF JERUSALEM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN, BACKGROUND BRIEFING

MATERIAL FOR MRS. KISSINGER

FOR S/S ONLY (CONTINGENCY PAPER)

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE BRIEFING MATERIAL PREPARED FOR MRS. KISSINGER AND FORWARDED IN STATE 103052 (TOSEC 731):

2. SETTING. THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN, HIS THIRD IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, COMES SHORTLY AFTER THE SUDDEN RESIGNATION OF WILLY BRANDT AND THE SUBSEQUENT ELECTION OF HELMUT SCHMIDT AS CHANCELLOR ON MAY 16. THE NEW SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY TEN DAYS, AND HAS JUST COMPLETED ITS FIRST MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY TEXT. WE HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IT IS LIKELY TO SURVIVE UNTIL 1976, WILL BE FRIENDLY TO THE US, AND COULD BE THE STRONGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 109160

3. BACKGROUND. WILLY BRANDT'S SUDDEN RESIGNATION ON MAY 6 TOOK GERMANY AND THE WORLD BY SURPRISE. HIS SPD/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT, ELECTED IN 1972 WITH A LARGE MAJORITY, HAD SUFFERED TROUBLESOME LOSSES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. NO SINGLE CAUSE CAN EXPLAIN THE DECLINE WHICH ACTED AS A DEPRESSANT ON CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND THE COALITION. THEN IN APRIL AN ;

EAST GERMAN SPY WAS DISCOVERED AMONG BRANDT'S IMMEDIATE OFFICE STAFF. THE SUBSEQUENT SCANDAL, AND THE THREAT THAT HIS PRIVATE LIFE WOULD BE DRAWN INTO IT CAUSED THE CHANCELLOR TO RESIGN. HIS DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR, FORMER FINANCE MINISTER HELMUT SCHMIDT, WAS ELECTED CHANCELLOR ON MAY 16. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE LAST MONTHS OF THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY HAPPY. THE TWO PILLARS OF POST-WAR GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY--A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND A FIRM COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN UNITY--APPEARED THREATENED BY BICKERING BETWEEN THE EC NINE AND THE US, CONFLICT WITHIN THE EC NINE, AND WEAKNESSES IN THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. IN ADDITION, BRANDT'S POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF THE EAST HAD STAGNATED.

4. OUTLOOK. FEW SURPRISES WERE CONTAINED IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF POLICY TO THE BUNDESTAG. ITS MAJOR EMPHASIS WAS ON DOMESTIC POLICY, WITH SCHMIDT PLEDGING TO MAINTAIN THE FRG'S PROSPERITY AND BRING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL. SCHMIDT PLEDGED HIS COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AND EUROPEAN UNITY. TO KEEP HIS LINE TO THE EAST OPEN, SCHMIDT WILL VISIT MOSCOW THIS SUMMER AS BRANDT HAD PLANNED TO DO. THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS MUCH LIKE THE OLD. THE SPD'S COALITION PARTNER, THE FDP, RETAINED FOUR MINISTRIES. THE NEW LEADER OF THE FDP, HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, SUCCEEDS SCHEEL AS FOREIGN MINISTER. AN ABLE AND PRO-US ASSOCIATE OF SCHMIDT, HANS APEL, BECAME FINANCE MINISTER. AS FINANCE MINISTER, SCHMIDT COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH US OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING SUPPORT OF THE DOLLAR. HE WANTS TO MAINTAIN A US TROOP PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 109160

TO OFFSET THEIR COST WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL IN MEETING PRESURES FROM THE US CONGRESS TO WITHDRAW THEM.

5. YOUR ROLE. WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN. IT IS CERTAIN TO BE HECTIC. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF BONN AT SCHLOSS GYMNIC, A SMALL PALACE MAINTAINED AND RUN BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. IF THIS IS

THE CASE, YOUR GERMAN HOSTS WILL MOST LIKELY WANT TO TAKE
YOU SIGHTSEEING IN COLOGNE, BUT WILL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE A
SCHEDULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PREFERENCES. DRESS WILL
BE COMPARABLE TO THAT IN THE US, BUT GIVEN NORMAL WEATHER
ON THE RHINE, YOU WILL WANT A RAINCOAT AND UMBRELLA. RUSH

SECRET

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